

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Questions on Notice arising for the hearing in Welfare Reform and the Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act

Darwin, 15 February 2010

Hansard: <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/commtee/S12780.pdf>

Agency/ Code	Senator	Hansard Reference	Excerpt
<p>DHF DoJ Police DHLGRS DET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WRD1</p>	Siewert	p. 7 & p. 8	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Ms Gardiner-Barnes and Mr Green, you were talking about supports and education issues. I have to ask the question: shouldn't these supports have been supplied anyway? If these programs had been rolled out, maybe we would not have got to the situation that we are at the present time, so my question is: why haven't these support services been available in the past? I appreciate that they may be ballpark figures, but could you tell us how much each of your agencies is now going to be putting in to providing these services—which other communities would expect to be provided to them as an essential service?</p> <p>Ms Gardiner-Barnes—In relation to the funding element, I might have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Sorry; in terms of?</p> <p>Ms Gardiner-Barnes—The response in relation to the costs or what our department is currently contributing or intends to contribute. At this point in time there is a review and an inquiry going on into the child protection system in the Northern Territory. There has been a public statement made by the Northern Territory government that it is through that inquiry that we will be investigating a range of service gaps and potential ways forward, in particular looking at the non-government sector and the role that they could be playing in preventing and early intervention across the Territory. That is one part of the child protection system that is extremely underdeveloped in the Territory that we have recognised that we need to invest in the future. It is through the public inquiry that is being undertaken at the moment that we will examine those issues in more detail, and recommendations will be presented to government. My department, the Department of Health and Families, will be making a formal submission to that inquiry about where we believe the investment needs to occur and the</p>

			<p>strengthening of the system that needs to occur, including in those rural and remote communities and, in particular, the family support services that need to be provided to those vulnerable families.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—So the intervention has been running for 2½ years and we still do not have an idea about that?</p> <p>Ms Gardiner-Barnes—There have been a number of additional support programs put in place through additional funding provided by the federal government and also the Territory government through Closing the Gap initiatives including mobile outreach teams and the trialling of family support services in those remote communities. But there is still a long way to go.</p> <p>CHAIR—Can we get a list of what expenditure the Northern Territory government has put into the programs that we are talking about over the last two years?</p> <p>Ms Gardiner-Barnes—Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR—If we could get that listed and also what you know of what further expenditure is being promised in the federal process over the next period of time linked to these changes. I think that is the gist of it. If we can get that itemised, it would be very useful.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—You have taken the question from Senator Moore about extra resources on notice, but when you provide the information could you tell us what those services are and what they have been providing?</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p>
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			The following programs and services are funded by the Northern Territory Government:		
			Programs and services	2008/2009	2009/2010
			<p>Family and Parent Support Services</p> <p>Provides leadership on policy and service development in the areas of sexual assault, family violence, family and parenting support services and women's policy. Family and Parent Support Services also provides crisis intervention and therapeutic services to Territorians through the Sexual Assault Referral Centres, Safe Places in Remote Aboriginal Communities and the Mobile Outreach Service (Plus).</p>	10.885M	14.141M
			<p>Child Protection Services</p> <p>aims to protect and minimise harm to children by: investigating reports of abuse; placing and supporting children when they are no longer able to safely stay with their families and are in the care of the Chief Executive; reunifying and reconnecting families; providing intensive family support and providing early intervention services to families where children are at risk of harm.</p> <p>The Targeted Family Support Service program (TFSS) is an initiative under NT Families and Children Differential Response Framework. The TFSS provides funding to Indigenous NGOs for intensive family support case management for high need, lower risk families notified through the Child Protection intake function. NT Families and Children outposts a Child Protection Officer to support the Non Government Organisation with risk management of cases and to promote a strong partnership approach to supporting the family to prevent the need for intrusive statutory action. The TFSS has been</p>	25.852M	25.366M

			operating in Alice Springs since 2009 with a new service in each of Darwin and Katherine commencing in 2010.		
			<p>Out of Home Care Services</p> <p>Is to oversee the provision of care (placements) and adoption services for children in the guardianship and custody of the Chief Executive across the Northern Territory. Care can be provided by foster and relative carers, specialist cares and/or youth workers. Care services are provided in settings including the carer's home, residential care facilities or specialised treatment services. In 2008/09 the Therapeutic Services Team was established in Darwin to deliver intense therapeutic services to children and young people suffering extreme trauma as a result of abuse and neglect. In 2009/10 this team will be expanded in Darwin and established in Alice Springs. Behavioural change services provided include psychological services, therapeutic interventions and case management.</p>	24.074M	29.807M
			<p>Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services</p> <p>Provides Sexual Assault Referral Centres to support victims of sexual assault. In 2008/09 and 2009/10 new and expanded facilities have been established in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and</p>	23.484M	20.040M

			<p>Katherine along with increases in medical co-ordinators, counsellors and aboriginal sexual assault workers.</p> <p>In March 2009, mandatory reporting of serious physical harm arising from domestic and family violence became law; fact sheets and other information have been developed for reporters and information sessions have been delivered to 100 organisations and over 1,000 people across the Territory. A Family Violence Investment Strategy has been developed to assist with the implementation on the new law including a significant social marketing campaign to ensure Territorians are aware of the new law, investment in family violence Shelters and domestic violence legal services across the Northern Territory, development of community legal education materials, and building the social work capacity of Emergency Departments.</p>		
			<p>Children's Commissioner</p> <p>The Commissioner is responsible for investigating complaints about services required to be provided to protection children, to monitor the administration of the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act 2007</i>, and to monitor the implementation of any government decision arising from the Inquiry in the Protection of Aboriginal children from Sexual Abuse.</p>	0.594M	0.612M
			<p>Indigenous Family Violence Offender Program</p> <p>The Indigenous Family Violence Offender Program aims to reduce the incidence of Indigenous family violence in communities and to reinforce that family violence is unacceptable. It is delivered in community settings and in partnership with Indigenous organisations.</p>	0.763M	1.009M

			The IFVOP has been funded under the NT's Closing the Gap program.		
			<p>Additional Resources to support sexual assault prosecutions</p> <p>Sexual Assault Prosecutions</p> <p>Personnel</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Total</p> <p>Operational figures in the above table include legal expenses.</p>		(6 months)
				\$447 963	\$275 685
				\$523 714	\$162 982
				\$971 577	\$438 667
			<p>Increased support to witnesses and victims</p> <p>NT Closing the Gap funding - Katherine Witness Assistance Service</p> <p>Personnel</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Total</p>		(6 months)
				\$102 980	\$57 014
				\$ 60 723	\$27 496
				\$163 703	\$84 510
			<p>School Based Constables</p> <p>NT Police have 16 School Based Constables based in schools across the NT. The School Based Constables provide a presence at schools and undertake activities such as working with youth service providers, blue light discos and the like. The program is NTG funded.</p>	2M (approx)	2M (approx)
			<p>Alice Springs Youth Hub</p> <p>NT Police are developing the <i>Alice Springs Youth Hub</i> as part of the NT Government's Alice Springs Youth Action Plan, as a facility to provide a central coordination point for government and non-government agencies surrounding youth related issues, to be implemented by the NT Police Youth Services Coordinator. In conjunction with other NT Government agencies, the Youth Services</p>	1.6M	NA

			<p>Coordinator will examine youth day and night patrols with a view to consolidating funding to deliver an integrated service. Further initiatives announced by Chief Minister in February 2010 have resulted in a change in focus for the service delivery model of the Youth Hub, including dedicated police resources to manage school truancy and engage youth after hours. NTG considers that the Youth Hub provides a better solution as it is “a multi-agency” model with Police and the Departments of Health and Families and Education as the key Government agencies involved, bringing a better capacity to engage with the non government organisation sector service providers. The current budget for construction of the facility is \$1.6M at the Anzac Hill Campus of the Centralian Middle School. The operational budget of the facility is yet to be established.</p>													
			<p>Improving school attendance</p> <p>The following funds are spent in support of attendance issues. These funds do not include the considerable effort undertaken by school staff in their work with families and the broader community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Total (Including central staff, 44 AIEW and 30 HLO Officers, Regional Attendance Officers) • Goods and Services • Valuing of Schooling Campaign • Clontarf Program 	2009/2010	2010/2011											
				5.592	5.592											
				0.172	0.172											
				0.100	0.100											
				1.970	2.230											
			The following are combined Australian and Northern Territory Governments’ investment.													
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Programs and services</th> <th>2009/10</th> <th>2010/11</th> <th>2011/2012</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Family Support Package (awaiting signoff) aims to provide a coordinated response to Indigenous family violence in the number of Northern Territory communities, whilst leveraging existing services and</td> <td>AG 10.100M</td> <td>AG 10.500M</td> <td>AG 11M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT 2.34M</td> <td>NT 3.04M</td> <td>NT 3.04M</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Programs and services	2009/10	2010/11	2011/2012	Family Support Package (awaiting signoff) aims to provide a coordinated response to Indigenous family violence in the number of Northern Territory communities, whilst leveraging existing services and	AG 10.100M	AG 10.500M	AG 11M	NT 2.34M	NT 3.04M	NT 3.04M		
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			<p>infrastructure. There are 3 components of the package.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mobile Child Protection Team – this team aims to support and strengthen child protection services across the Northern Territory, increasing quality and timeliness of casework. 2. Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers in remote communities – this team is to build the capacity to respond to protective issues in remote Indigenous communities by establishing a remote child protection and family support service in up to 13 remote Indigenous communities and nearby outstations that are staffed by local Indigenous people who have family and cultural connections to the community. These services will be integrated into the Northern Territory child protection service system from the point of notification to NT Families and Children, through to investigation and case management through the regional child protection offices across the Northern Territory. 3. Provision of 22 Safe Places in fifteen (15) remote and two (2) urban communities. The Safe Places function as a 24 hour crisis support service and are a proactive part of the local service system. Presently, they hold responsibility for the day to day management of the Safe Places – which will gradually be transferred to other organisations 			
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			<p>Mobile Outreach Service (Plus)</p> <p>The MOS+ is fully funded by the Australian Government (OATSIH) under the Closing the Gap National Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>MOS+ provides the following services to children and young people living in remote Indigenous communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapeutic counselling for any form of child abuse and related trauma; • Sexual assault forensic medical examinations to children in or near their local community; • Provides specialist clinical support and training for best practice MOS+ services. <p>MOS+ teams have been established in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Darwin. The Katherine region will be serviced by staff located in Darwin due to extreme accommodation issues in that region.</p> <p>An Expert Reference Group with experts from across Australia has been established to assist in the implementation and development of the Program.</p>	AG 2.779M	AG 2.718M	AG 2.073M
			Child Abuse Task Force (CAT)			

			<p>NT Police fund the <i>Child Abuse Task Force (CAT)</i> for \$4.2M per year (DHF fund an additional \$2M). The CAT employs 12 NT Police in Darwin and 5 in Alice Springs (NTG funded), DHF positions and 6 Australian Federal Police (Commonwealth funded) and administrative positions. The purpose of the CAT is to investigate child sexual abuse throughout the NT.</p> <p>NT Police also provide direct specific investigative functions outside of the CAT to investigate child abuse including sexual abuse for those matters not captured by CAT. For example, those investigations undertaken by local detectives at remote localities. NT Police are also involved in ensuring the welfare of children by services such as conveying children home or to support agencies when children are found in situations that makes them vulnerable. None of these functions can be costed as they are in normal operational costs.</p>	NT 6.2M	NT 6.2M	NT 6.2M
DET	Moore	pp 10-11	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I was going to go into the SEAM trial. Can you tell us some of the outcomes from the SEAM trial? I believe it has been going for about a year.</p> <p>Mr Green—I can give you some statistics, and I will do that. The issue in reading the statistics is that I cannot be absolutely 100 per cent positive that the results are because of the SEAM trial because of course we have got some statistical gains and losses in schools that were not in the trial. I will pick out a couple of examples.</p> <p>CHAIR—Can we get the document to which you are referring tabled? Keep going with your argument but if we for the sake of the committee could get the document tabled so that we can have a look at it then that would be very useful.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p>			
WRD2						

			<p>The Northern Territory government supports the welfare reform legislation package. While acknowledging that there will be concerns from sections of the community in relation to the income management proposal, the perceived social and economic benefits, particularly to young children and families, is a key consideration. The actions proposed in this legislation will potentially have a significant impact on the Northern Territory public education system in relation to issues of provision, data exchange and community relationships. These issues are seen not as barriers to the legislation but rather as matters that require careful consideration if the proposed benefits are to be realised.</p> <p>The proposed adoption of a behavioural rather than a location based approach to income management will bring increased scrutiny of student attendance. The Department of Education and Training welcomes this scrutiny. The department has continued to put significant resources and effort into encouraging families to value schooling and to enter into patterns of continued attendance. These efforts have been met with mixed results, and further effort and action are required and planned. Extra attendance officers are currently being located in regions closer to schools. These officers will work in concert with the efforts of school based staff and will work directly with communities and individual families where attendance is an issue. It is clear that increased enrolment and attendance means more teachers, more resources and therefore increased costs in providing for education. The impact of income management will potentially mean the return to school of students who have previously been disconnected. These students will most likely need much more than the basic provision of teachers and resources. They are students who will be at the higher end of the per capita cost scale. They will require specialist programs and targeted intervention and support. This means higher staff-student ratios and increased staff numbers and housing. These needs will potentially be urgent, but provision will take time.</p> <p>It is also clear that, with the changes to legislation as proposed, parents will be looking for confirmation of student attendance as one piece of evidence to support exemption from income management. The workload on school staff, if they are to be targeted with the provision of such information, will be significant and will detract from a focus on more critical issues, such as getting students into school and teaching those in attendance. Our recent experience from the SEAM trial tells us that this role needs to be removed from schools, where the focus should be on working with the community to encourage and support attendance.</p> <p>They should not be seen as being involved in decision making about income management; that role needs to sit with central and regional staff. For this occur in an accurate and timely manner, it will</p>
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			<p>require significant improvements to data capture and processing systems. This will take time and new resources.</p> <p>Again, the SEAM trial highlighted for us the importance of school staff working with the community to support attendance rather than being the arbiter of income related matters. Our experience tells us repeatedly that where principals and school staff have dramatically improved attendance it has been done on the back of significant effort underpinned by quality community relationships. Any role for school staff in decision making about such things as income management has significant potential to erode such relationships and undermine efforts to get children to school.</p> <p>In summary, from the perspective of the Department of Education and Training, the proposed changes to legislation are supported, with the knowledge that it is in the implementation of these changes that they will be successful in the way intended or otherwise. We in education know and accept that we will play a role, but it is the particular shape and nature of this role that is critical. There will be a need for extra resources—financial, human and physical. Without a commitment to such provision, the significant possibilities for communities in terms of social and economic development and stability will not be realised.</p> <p>SEAM trial operating across 6 NT sites since January 2009 - Tiwi Islands, Wadeye, Katherine, Katherine Town Camps, Wallace Rockhole and Hermannsburg.</p> <p>Since January 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 234 children identified by Government schools in trial sites as being at risk in relation to school attendance ○ 98 identified as 'in scope' for the trial ○ 38 Individual Attendance Plans created between identified families and their schools ○ 17 families referred to Centrelink for suspension of payment ○ 2 families have had payments suspended <p>The Northern Territory Government would prefer income management be used rather than suspension of payments.</p>
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SEAM School Enrolment and Attendance 2009 Yearly Average - 2007,08,09						
	Enrolments			Attendance		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Casuarina Street Primary School	298	274	252	83.8%	91.9%	91.0%
Clyde Fenton Primary School	368	320	314	80.0%	80.3%	82.7%
Katherine High School	612	681	648	75.6%	81.8%	81.6%
Katherine South Primary School	360	342	330	88.4%	89.4%	88.7%
MacFarlane Primary School	271	228	237	78.2%	76.4%	77.4%
Milikapiti School	86	82	80	72.6%	76.9%	82.2%
Ntaria School	132	141	179	59.8%	62.9%	73.0%
Pularumpi School	85	78	74	76.2%	84.6%	88.2%
Wallace Rockhole School	29	36	38	79.5%	73.6%	82.4%
Seam Schools Total	2,241	2,182	2,151	78.8%	82.1%	83.0%

DET	Boyce	p. 12	<p>Senator BOYCE—Are all the pools operational currently? Mr Davies—I would need to take that on notice and get some advice. Senator BOYCE—Perhaps you could tell us what the percentages are in terms of pools. Mr Davies—Sure. I will definitely take that on notice and get that back to you.</p> <p>Pools are located in the following communities:</p>
WRD3			

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nguiu (Tiwi Islands) o Maningrida o Gunbalanya o Wadeye o Borroloola o Ngukurr o Kintore o Areyonga o Santa Teresa o Yuendumu <p>The \$4.5m Pools in Remote Areas (PIRA) program was announced in May 2004;</p> <p>The program operated as a three way partnership between the NT and the Australian Governments and recipient communities. The Northern Territory Government (NTG) contributed \$2M and the Australian Government (AG) contributed \$2.55M to the program and individual communities had to contribute one third of the funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no recurrent funding provided by either Government. • Borroloola, Maningrida and Yuendumu were successful in their applications for funding under the program. • Operational costs are not fully assessed but Victoria Daly Shire Council plans indicate that “2007-08 budget is approximately \$90,500, including \$54,000 in wages and \$16,000 in electricity. However this does not take into consideration many other indirect costs, such as depreciation, administration and insurance; • Revenue raised through pool entry and sales of goods, where there is a kiosk, do not cover the costs of operating pools;
DET	Crossin	p.12	<p>Senator CROSSIN—How many is that, Mr Green?</p> <p>Mr Green—Since January 2009, there have been 234 children identified by government schools as</p>

WRD4			<p>being at risk, 98 as identified as being in scope for the trial and 38 individual attendance plans created. Where there has been a continued pattern of non-attendance, we have developed interrelationships with the families around the writing of an attendance plan which has put into place some supports and strategies to make sure the students have got to school. We have worked with the families to make sure that everyone is meeting their part of the deal. From those, 17 families have been referred to Centrelink and, of those 17; two families have had payments suspended.</p> <p>CHAIR—Is that on the same piece of paper, Mr Green?</p> <p>Mr Green—That is on a different piece of paper with scribble all over it, but I am sure I can get a clean one.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p> <p>SEAM trial operating across 6 NT sites since January 2009 - Tiwi Islands, Wadeye, Katherine, Katherine Town Camps, Wallace Rockhole and Hermannsburg. Since January 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 234 children identified by Government schools in trial sites as being at risk in relation to school attendance o 98 identified as ‘in scope’ for the trial o 38 Individual Attendance Plans created between identified families and their schools o 17 families referred to Centrelink for suspension of payment o 2 families have had payments suspended <p>SEAM School Enrolment and Attendance 2009 Yearly Average - 2007,08,09</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="736 1074 1982 1337"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="3">Enrolments</th> <th colspan="3">Attendance</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Casuarina Street Primary School</td> <td>298</td> <td>274</td> <td>252</td> <td>83.8%</td> <td>91.9%</td> <td>91.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clyde Fenton Primary School</td> <td>368</td> <td>320</td> <td>314</td> <td>80.0%</td> <td>80.3%</td> <td>82.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Enrolments			Attendance			2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	Casuarina Street Primary School	298	274	252	83.8%	91.9%	91.0%	Clyde Fenton Primary School	368	320	314	80.0%	80.3%	82.7%
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DET WRD5a	Siewert	p.18	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I just want to follow up, Mr Green, on where we are up to with the education discussion. You were talking about the shift from attendance to enrolment, and I am wondering: (a) what is the time frame for that—you said that you have started that process—and (b) have you budgeted how much that is going to cost?</p> <p>Mr Green—I will have to take the cost question on notice. Certainly our planning is happening right now. We have, with some of our remote schools, changed the staffing formula from this year and allocated more staffing resources to those schools.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p> <p>Timeframe for changing from staffing on attendance to staffing on enrolments. Funding implications, including for housing in remote areas.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Department of Education and Training staffs all schools on enrolment modified by attendance. Staffing schools on enrolment would result in the allocation of approximately 158 additional classroom teachers. In addition such a model would also realise an increased</p>																																																								

			<p>allocation of senior teaching staff and support staff.</p> <p>The DET is currently negotiating with DEEWR to use the additional 200 teachers (170 of which are for use in Government schools) provided as a part of a federal government election commitment to assist in re-engaging students and improving attendance in schools in remote communities. These teachers are proposed to be allocated to remote schools with poor attendance.</p> <p>The current remote teacher housing initiative will deliver an extra forty seven (47) two (2) bedroom apartments by 30 June 2010. Whilst this will reduce the pressure on housing for Territory teachers in remote areas it is unlikely that it would accommodate the increase that would be apparent if DET were to move to a staffing model based solely on enrolment.</p> <p>The NTG has committed in 2010 to re-examine school resourcing strategies but has not moved to change its existing policy in relation to school staffing at this time.</p>
DET	Siewert	p.18	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you tell me, for those schools, what the teacher-student ratio is and whether you have an aim to achieve a certain staff-student ratio? When we were in South Australia in the APY Lands last year, their staff-student ratio was much better than the Northern Territory staff-student ratio. If you could comment on that it would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Green—Are you referring to the teacher-student ratio?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes, the teacher-student ratio.</p> <p>Mr Green—I will take those questions on notice, but a general response is that, within the current industrial agreements about the number of students related to each teacher—and I think it averages out at about 17 or 18; we will obviously work to those figures—the goal is to increase the number of teaching bodies in schools up to the enrolment figure rather than the attendance figure. Where we have an advantage, I think, over other jurisdictions here—and it is one that we are quite happy to keep, in a sense—is that we do have a number of support persons available in the classroom. So if we work on an adult-to-student ratio we are actually quite well provisioned. That is really important, particularly when you are in remote areas where you need people who actually speak the language, that have that relationship with the kids et cetera. That is a really valuable asset. But I can certainly provide those figures.</p>

		<p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p> <p>Student/Teacher Ratios The Northern Territory Department of Education and Training staffs schools on enrolment modified by attendance. The current student/teaching staff ratio as described by formula is:</p> <table data-bbox="741 435 1122 584"> <tr> <td>Preschool</td> <td>20:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary</td> <td>22:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle</td> <td>17:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior</td> <td>14:1</td> </tr> </table> <p>These ratios are converted to a per student multiplier by dividing the number of students particular to a given ratio into 1, eg Primary: 1 divided by 22. There is no variation to the multipliers according to region or enrolment and attendance.</p> <p>In addition a Curriculum Access (CA) factor is applied where there are smaller cohorts of students. The CA skews the allocation of teachers towards smaller schools and by implication towards schools in remote and very remote locations.</p> <p>In addition to the application of formula DET also allocates teaching resources to programs in schools such as ESL and Special Education.</p> <p>Per student multipliers and CA are also used in the allocation of non-teaching staff.</p> <p>Student/Adult ratios (Including teacher aides) There is no specific student/adult ratio and a response to this enquiry is best given by way of example.</p> <p>Maningrida School is a very remote school catering for students Preschool through to Year 12 and staffed for 371 students. Staffing formula and allocation from other programs results in the total</p>	Preschool	20:1	Primary	22:1	Middle	17:1	Senior	14:1
Preschool	20:1									
Primary	22:1									
Middle	17:1									
Senior	14:1									

			<p>allocation of 68.5 full time equivalent adults giving an adult to Student ratio of 1 to 5.4. In addition the school council is funded for, and employs, Inclusion Support Assistants, Indigenous Tuition Assistance Scheme (ITAS) tutors and Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) workers; this further reduces the adult/student ratio.</p> <p>Braitling Primary School is located in Alice Springs and caters for students from Preschool through to Year 6 and staffed for 379 students. Staffing formula and allocation from other programs, results in the total allocation of 32 full time equivalent adults giving an adult to student ratio of 1 to 11.8. In addition the school council is funded for, and employs, Inclusion Support Assistants and ITAS tutors; this further reduces the adult/student ratio.</p>
DET WRD5c	Siewert	p.18	<p>Senator SIEWERT—You said that you are starting to implement the changeover to the enrolment focus. When will that be completed? Mr Green—Part of the answer is, ‘How long is a piece of string?’ Take, for example, a place like Elcho Island—Shepherdson College. We have put a number of extra teachers out there and could put another five or six out there, but we need the housing to put them in. So the answer to that question is: as housing and other resources allow. So it will be done incrementally and as quickly as possible. Senator SIEWERT—So you are taking on notice to provide me with the amount that you have allocated to do that and the time frame. Mr Green—Yes. Senator SIEWERT—Could you do not only this financial year but also your budget forecasts for the next couple of years, please? Mr Green—Yes.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p> <p>The Northern Territory Department of Education and Training staffs schools on enrolment modified by attendance. Staffing schools on enrolment would result in the allocation of approximately 158 additional classroom teachers. In addition such a model would also realise an increased allocation of senior teaching staff and support staff. Based on enrolment figures taken from one point in time (2009) it would require the appointment of 138 extra teachers into remote locations and a further 20 in provincial locations, being approximately 158 in total. The average approximate cost of 138 remote teachers is \$138,000 per teacher or \$15.7M and for provincial teachers 20 @ approximately</p>

			<p>\$99,000, or \$1.98m. The approximate total for the extra teachers is \$17.68m. As previously stated this does not include the costs of any extra leadership or ancillary allocations which might flow as a result of extra teachers. Nor does it include the cost of housing such teachers.</p> <p>It is difficult to project too far into the future because of the volatility of enrolment data from one year to the next. Assuming similar enrolment numbers these figures would remain relatively stable and only be impacted on by changes to wages and associated on costs.</p>
DHF WRD6	Adams	p.20	<p>Ms Gardiner-Barnes—One of the services that we have got in trial at the moment is the mobile family support service that plays an integral role in bringing service centres together on the remote community side and working directly with families. That service will have a key role in linking with education. There are also enhanced opportunities for information sharing at the local level that we need to explore.</p> <p>Mr ADAMS—How many of those mobile services are there in the Territory?</p> <p>Ms Gardiner-Barnes—I will take that on notice rather than give you the answer off the top of my head, if that is okay. I will include that in the detailed information I will provide to the inquiry on that broader question.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p> <p>Family Support Package (awaiting signoff) aims to provide a coordinated response to Indigenous family violence in the number of Northern Territory communities, whilst leveraging existing services and infrastructure. There are 3 components of the package.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Child Protection Team – this team aims to support and strengthen child protection services across the Northern Territory, increasing quality and timeliness of casework. • Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers in remote communities – this team is to build the capacity to respond to protective issues in remote Indigenous communities by establishing a remote child protection and family support service in up to 13 remote Indigenous communities and nearby outstations that are staffed by local Indigenous people who have family and cultural connections to the community. These services will be

			<p>integrated into the Northern Territory child protection service system from the point of notification to NT Families and Children, through to investigation and case management through the regional child protection offices across the Northern Territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of 22 Safe Places in fifteen (15) remote and two (2) urban communities. The Safe Places function as a 24 hour crisis support service and are a proactive part of the local service system. Presently, they hold responsibility for the day to day management of the Safe Places – which will gradually be transferred to other organisations during 2010/11. The Safe Places boost local Indigenous employment by developing and supporting local Indigenous people to staff Safe Place positions.
<p>DoJ Police DHLGRS DHF DET</p> <p>WRD7</p>	<p>Boyce</p>	<p>p.21</p>	<p>Senator BOYCE—Mr Davies, has the Northern Territory government, in any area, sought legal advice about the changes that these activists [sic] could cause? Mr Davies—I need to take the question on notice. In terms of the Solicitor for the Northern Territory and the particular implications I would need to go back to our Department of the Chief Minister to seek that advice. I will definitely do that. Senator BOYCE—If you could please and, if so, could you tell us what sort of advice and who you sought it from, and as much information as possible about what the advice told you?</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government has examined the legislative package and its views on its implications have been expressed through it's submission to the inquiry.</p>
<p>DoJ</p> <p>WRD8</p>	<p>Siewert/Boyce</p>	<p>p.22</p>	<p>Senator SIEWERT—If you could provide us with the detail about how many people have been convicted as a result of these changes, that would be appreciated. To be quite honest, I would have thought that you would have had those, given that this inquiry is into this legislation and that the <i>Little children are sacred</i> report is the report that was used as the supposed catalyst for this legislation. I am keen to know whether it has resulted in an increased conviction rate or if the situation that has kicked this off in the first place has actually been reduced as a result of this legislation. Ms Morris—So a conviction rate in relation to— Senator SIEWERT—Sexual offences and child abuse.</p>

Ms Morris—Sexual offences against children?
Senator SIEWERT—Yes.
Ms Morris—It is a criminal offence; child abuse per se is a fairly broad—
Senator SIEWERT—Sorry; sexual offences against children.
Senator BOYCE—Would it be possible in each case to get the ages of the victim and the perpetrator?
Ms Morris—So the ages of the victim and the offender?
Senator BOYCE—Yes, and any other information about the cases that failed. I do not know what it is that you could provide us there, but it would appear that the ability to bring to trial these cases is still somewhat problematic.
Ms Morris—Our conviction rate is data that we would have available. We would be able to provide data about cases where they pleaded guilty, were found guilty or were found not guilty and cases withdrawn at a later stage in the proceedings

The Northern Territory Government response:

The number of sexual assault prosecutions commenced over the last three years listed by Court outcomes and the age status of the victim are detailed below.

Supreme Court

Supreme Court	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
	Adult	Child	Total	Adult	Child	Total	Adult	Child	Total
Plea **	13	11	24	8	22	30	8	10	18
Guilty at Trial	3	6	9	5	4	9	2	3	5
Not Guilty/ Acquitted at Trial	1	3	4	7	3	10	2	0	2

			Percentage Convicted	94%	85%	90%	65%	90%	78%	83%	100%	92%
			% which result in a finding of guilt at trial	75%	66%	71%	42%	57%	50%	50%	100%	71%
			Nolle Prosequi (discontinue prosecution)	6	4	10	2	6	8	1	3	4
			Pending	6	10	16	5	10	15	19	24	43
			Total	29	34	63	27	45	72	32	40	72
Magistrates Court												
			Magistrates Court	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
				Adult	Child	Total	Adult	Child	Total	Adult	Child	Total
			Guilty Convicted	11	7	18	8	11	19	7	7	14
			Not Guilty Acquitted	3	4	7	1	1	2	0	1	1

			Withdrawn	2	7	9	6	7	13	3	4	7
			Pending	8	3	11	2	2	4	26	22	48
			Percentage Convicted	79%	64%	72%	89%	92%	91%	100%	88%	93%
			Total	24	21	45	17	21	38	36	34	70
			<p>Interpretation Note: ** In 2006-07, 13 offenders pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting an adult and 11 offenders pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a child. If say three offenders assault an individual then each of the three offenders is counted in the above table. If an offender assaults multiple victims in the same criminal episode, that offender is only counted once in the above table.</p>									
DoJ	Siewert	p.23	<p>Senator SIEWERT—When we were looking at some amendments to the act previously we had reports of increased rates of incarceration as a result of what people term ‘relatively minor offences’. I am interested in the current statistics and whether that issue has been addressed. Ms Morris—We do have increased rates of incarceration. It would be very difficult to break down those increased rates of incarceration into actual causes. The Territory government itself has introduced a raft of legislation over the last couple of years in relation to, for example, serious violent offences, having mandatory imprisonment and reducing the opportunities for people to apply for bail in relation to those kinds of offences. So there are a number of issues. But I can provide the current and previous incarceration rates for you. The difficulty, again, would be determining with accuracy where those people are coming from—so, whether or not they were incarcerated in Darwin or Yirrkala or wherever the offence occurred that they were incarcerated for. However, we are able to provide what kind of offences people are in custody for.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p>									
WRD9												

The table below presents the count of prisoners (both sentenced and remand) as at 30 June for the last five calendar years by most serious offence.

The offence types contributing most to the 28% (232 extra prisoners) increase in prisoners since 2005 are:

- Acts intended to cause injury - an increase of 30% (or 99 extra prisoners)
- Sexual assault and related offences - an increase of 41% (or 36 extra prisoners)
- Illicit drug offences – an increase of 193% (or 29 extra prisoners)
- Exceeding the prescribed content of alcohol - an increase of 58% (or 21 extra prisoners)
- Breach of justice order - an increase of 223% (or 58 extra prisoners)

Breach of justice order offenders are predominantly breaching a Domestic Violence Order

Census of prisoners on 30 June each year according to most serious offences

Most Serious Offence	As at 30 June				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Homicide and related offences					
Murder	43	49	56	48	49
Manslaughter and driving causing death	25	29	32	40	44
Other	1	5	5	4	7
Acts intended to cause injury	327	327	362	380	426
Sexual assault and related offences	88	86	101	128	124
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons					
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	7	4	3	3	3
Dangerous or negligent driving	4	0	2	4	8
Other	21	16	17	11	10
Abduction and related offences	2	4	3	2	4
Robbery extortion and related offences	26	19	23	23	24
Unlawful entry with intent	71	53	52	51	57
Theft and related offences					
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	12	6	11	9	6
Other	13	15	13	6	10

			<p>Deception and related offences 5 10 4 11 9</p> <p>Illicit drug offences 15 22 29 20 44</p> <p>Weapons and explosive offences 4 6 7 2 7</p> <p>Property damage and environmental pollution 17 15 9 10 11</p> <p>Public order offences 12 9 7 5 10</p> <p>Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences</p> <p> Driving licence offences 44 23 42 42 50</p> <p> Exceeding the prescribed content of alcohol 36 41 39 54 57</p> <p> Exceeding legal speed limit 0 1 0 0 0</p> <p> Other 3 4 3 2 0</p> <p>Offences against justice procedures, gov't security and operations</p> <p> Breach of justice order 26 34 69 88 84</p> <p> Other 2 5 3 1 4</p> <p>Miscellaneous offences 15 6 14 7 3</p> <p>Total 819 789 906 951 1051</p> <p>Note</p> <p>1. This includes all prisoners held in the two adult institutions</p> <p>2. Census was conducted by the Department of Justice on 30 June of the relevant year on behalf of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS subsequently publishes statistics based on each census in its "Prisoners in Australia "(catalogue reference 4517.0) publication.</p>
DHF	Furner	pp 23–24	<p>Senator FURNER—On nutrition, I have read reports of substantial increases in good-quality food and so on. I would like some feedback in terms of the quantity, the quality and also the storage capacity, whether it be for frozen foods, fish or whatever the case might be.</p> <p>CHAIR—Mr Davies, I think we are going to have to put that on notice in terms of the number of places that would have to provide input. There is a series of issues around the question. We will put that on notice.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p> <p>Food Security :- The Northern Territory has participated in the development of the draft National Strategy for Food</p>
WRD10			

			<p>Security in Remote Indigenous Communities. In July 2009, COAG requested the development of a national Strategy to improve the food security of people living in remote Indigenous communities. Improving food security will require sustained action across all sectors and governments and requires a coordinated and targeted effort. The draft Strategy outlines the underlying evidence for action and identified specific strategic actions that can be taken to improve food security.</p> <p>The draft Strategy will be piloted in up to 10 communities commencing in March to test the draft national standards. The existing food regulatory standards form part of this national standard with additional standards to be developed in retail management; financial management; governance; infrastructure; and food and nutrition policy and promotion.</p> <p>It is expected that COAG will be informed on progress mid 2010.</p> <p>Community Stores Environmental Health regularly monitors community stores for compliance with the NT Food Act and Food Standards Code. This does involve assessment of food storage areas to ensure that food is stored at appropriate temperatures and is protected from contamination. EH does not gather data on the actual volume of storage available in a community. EH does liaise regularly with the Stores Licensing section of FaCHSIA.</p>
DCM WRD11	Crossin	p.24	<p>Senator CROSSIN—Mr Kendrick, you might need to provide us an answer in writing to this. I have had my office email me section 18 of the current act. You are right. I suppose what I am after is how division 4 of the Police Administration Act works. Does that give you the powers to search and enter somebody's home?</p> <p>Mr Kendrick—Division 4 of the Police Administration Act is, to put it in its simplest terms, our power to apprehend intoxicated persons in a public place. So, if we walk out the front door of here and there is a seriously intoxicated person that I have concerns about, I can apprehend that person without a criminal charge and incarcerate him for up to six hours to sober up. Then, after that six hours, he gets released without charge.</p> <p>The section in the NTER extends that power to prescribed areas as if it were a public place. So a private residence in a prescribed area can be treated in the same way as our division 4.</p> <p>Senator BOYCE—But only for that purpose?</p> <p>Mr Kendrick—If we believe there is an intoxicated person, yes. It is not a power to search. It is not a</p>

			<p>power to arrest. It is a power to apprehend for that person to sober up.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—The significant change, though, in the legislation we have before us actually repeals that section in writing and now says the Commonwealth minister will, by legislative instrument, declare whether or not your Police Administration Act will apply to a prescribed area.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—And that is subject to community consultation, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Kendrick—Yes.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—Subject to community consultation. So it takes the automatic right out of the Northern Territory Police and puts it in the hands of a discretion by the federal minister subject to community consultation.</p> <p>Mr Kendrick—And certainly that community consultation can be positive.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—Is this a positive change? What is the view of the Northern Territory government about this change? Is this a change that is welcomed and supported or is there a belief that the wording in the current legislation should stay?</p> <p>Mr Kendrick—Certainly I think the issue of community consultation is what is important in this. All the communities in the prescribed areas are vastly different, so I think bringing it back to the local level with community consultation is a positive.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—So is the restriction the fact, then, that after the community consultation you have to wait for the federal minister to undertake the declaration? Should there be a change so that it is automatic once the community consultation has been undertaken?</p> <p>Mr Kendrick—I would have to get advice in respect of that.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—Perhaps if you could give us some further views. That would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Kendrick—Yes.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response:</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government supports the repeal of section 18 of the Northern Territory National Emergencies Response Act 2007 and the proposal that the additional police powers can be re-introduced to certain areas following a request by people residing in a community.</p>
DCM WRD12	Moore	p.24	<p>CHAIR—... I just have a general question—and you may have to take this on notice as well—to do with media. I would imagine that each of the departments have media liaison and process. One of the things I consistently ask about is the level of media coverage of these issues. I note particularly today there is a very positive story in the local paper about one school. I just want to know whether there is</p>

			<p>a way of seeing about positive and negative media images in the whole process of the development of Aboriginal communities and meeting gaps and standards. I know that is a very general question, but I am just leaving it to your perspective, as the NT government, about the interaction with the local media and some of the stuff that comes out in terms of positive and negative messages.</p> <p>Mr Davies—Can we take that on notice?</p> <p>CHAIR—Absolutely.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government response: The Northern Territory Government provides accurate and timely information of its activities and projects through a variety of mediums, including government websites, project launches, briefings, media advertisements and community engagement workshops. A lot of this information is provided directly to media outlets, and the media have a responsibility to accurately report on this to ensure the public are given all the facts.</p> <p>Each department within the Northern Territory Government has media protocols and processes in place to both promote government and community-related activities that may be of interest to the Territory community (proactive media) and respond appropriately to media enquiries (reactive media). In some cases a single department may have a whole-of-government role in coordinating proactive and reactive media around an issue. This often requires the department to monitor media coverage closely (both positive and negative) and provide information to media outlets as required. These processes ensure the Northern Territory Government is always aware of how particular issues are being reported and is able to deliver clear, concise information to media outlets and the public.</p>
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